

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) An ink cartridge installed in an inkjet printing apparatus printable by use of an inkjet head, for use in the inkjet printing apparatus, comprising:

a casing of the ink cartridge;

an ink storage portion positioned in the casing, for containing ink;

an engage reference portion provided on the casing and serving as a reference position in installing the ink cartridge in the inkjet printing apparatus; and

a joint section provided on the ink storage portion and connectable to an ink supply route of the inkjet printing head,

wherein the joint section is positioned in the proximity of one end of the ink cartridge, the one end being positioned in a leading side of an insertion direction in which the ink cartridge is installed in the inkjet printing apparatus.

wherein the engage reference portion is positioned between the one end and an opposite end of the ink cartridge, and

wherein the distance L1 between the joint section and the engage reference portion is shorter than the distance L2 between the one end of the ink cartridge and the engage reference portion, the distance L2 being defined as the shortest distance between the one end of the ink cartridge and the engage reference portion.

2. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink cartridge is virtually rectangular, and

an outer surface at which the engage reference portion is positioned, an outer surface at which the joint section is positioned, and the side surface mutually differ.

3. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 2, wherein the outer surface at which the engage reference portion is positioned, the outer surface at which the joint section is positioned, and the side surface area arranged next to each other.

4. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink cartridge is inserted into the inkjet printing apparatus from a predetermined insertion direction, and

the side surface is present ahead of the insertion direction.

5. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink cartridge is rotated about a predetermined rotation center axis in the inkjet printing apparatus, and

the side surface is located at the most distant position from the rotation center axis.

6. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the joint section comprises a sealing member through which a hollow needle connected to the ink supply route can be inserted.

7. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the ink cartridge includes a plurality of the joint sections such that the ink joint sections are connected to the corresponding ink supply routes, respectively.

8. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of joint sections are aligned along the side surface.

9. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 7, further comprising a plurality of ink storing sections which are connected to the plurality of joint sections, respectively.

10. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising a reference portion engageable to an engage section provided in the inkjet head.

11. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the distance L3 between the reference portion and the engage reference portion is shorter than the distance L2.

12. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the reference portion is positioned in an outer surface at which the joint section is located.

13. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the reference portion is a reference hole engageable with a reference axis provided in the inkjet head.

14. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising an absorber for absorbing ink from the inkjet head.

15. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 14, wherein the absorber absorbs ink ejected from the inkjet head and fails to contribute to printing an image.

16. (Original) The ink cartridge according to claim 14, wherein the absorber absorbs ink ejected from the inkjet head in order to keep the state of the inkjet head in a good condition.

17. (Previously Presented) The ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein ink is contained in the ink storage portion.